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Letter dated 23 May 1996 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 50/199 of 22 December 1995, as well as to my letters to you dated 26 February 1996 and 19 March in which I informed you of my decision to send a fact-finding mission to Nigeria.

The mission submitted its report to me on 23 April 1996. I sent a copy of the report to the Head of State of Nigeria, His Excellency General Sani Abacha, by hand of my Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. The Special Envoy visited Nigeria from 10 to 14 May 1996. Following the visit of my Special Envoy, the Special Adviser (Legal Matters) to the Head of State of Nigeria, sent me a letter on 21 May 1996 on behalf of General Abacha.

I hereby enclose the report of the fact-finding mission (annex I), as well as the interim response received from the Government of Nigeria (annex II). I should like to take this opportunity to assure you that I will continue to discharge my good offices mandate in the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution and will report on any further progress achieved.

I should be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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ANNEX I

Report of the fact-finding mission of the Secretary-General to Nigeria

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. It may be recalled that on 10 December 1995, the Head of State of Nigeria wrote to the Secretary-General supporting the suggestion that a fact-finding mission be sent to Nigeria to gain first-hand information on the country.

2. On 22 December 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/199 on the situation of human rights in Nigeria. In paragraph 7 of that resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to undertake discussions with the Government of Nigeria and to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and on the possibilities for the international community to offer practical assistance to Nigeria in achieving the restoration of democratic rule". Meanwhile, the Government of Nigeria maintained contact with, and requested by letter dated 19 December 1995 the assistance of, the Secretary-General concerning the sending of a fact-finding mission to address itself to the trial and execution of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others and to the plans of the Government of Nigeria to implement its declared commitment to restore the country to civilian democratic rule.

3. The Secretary-General, after consultation with the Government of Nigeria, set out the terms of reference of the fact-finding mission. The Secretary-General constituted the fact-finding mission, hereafter referred to as the mission, composed of Justice Atsu-Koffi Amega, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Togo and former President of the Supreme Court of Togo and a member of the African Commission for Human and People's Rights; Justice V. S. Malimath, member of the National Human Rights Commission of India; and John P. Pace, Chief of the Legislation and Prevention of Discrimination Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights.

4. On 26 February 1996, the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of the establishment of the mission and its composition.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

5. The terms of reference of the mission read as follows:

> "1. At the request of the Government of Nigeria, the Secretary-General has decided to send a fact-finding mission to Nigeria composed of three persons internationally recognized for their judgement and independence of mind to look into two issues of concern to the international community.
>
> "2. The first matter to which the mission will address itself is the recent trial and execution of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others. In this connection, the mission will examine the judicial procedures of the trial in the context both of the various international human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a party and of relevant Nigerian law. Consultations will be held, inter alia, with representatives of the Ogoni communities, the Administrator of Rivers State, the ministers of Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs, the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Chief Justice

of Nigeria, members of the Ogoni Tribunal, the Chairman and members of the National Human Rights Commission, as well as lawyers both for the Prosecutor and for the defence.

"3. The second matter to which the mission will address itself is the plans of the Government of Nigeria to implement its declared commitment to restore the country to civilian democratic rule. In this connection, the mission will hold consultations with members of the various organs established to implement the Government's transition programme, including the National Electoral Commission, the National Reconciliation Committee and the Transition Implementation Committee. It will study the various relevant instruments and laws and hold consultations with representatives of other institutions, political parties, non-governmental organizations, the press and trade unions. It may also conduct interviews with some of the personalities currently in detention.

"4. The mission will present a report to the Secretary-General. This report will include recommendations for action which, in the mission's view, could usefully be taken, inter alia, by the Government of Nigeria.

"5. The Government of Nigeria has undertaken to cooperate fully with the mission and to ensure its access to all persons, places and information which the mission feels necessary for the discharge of its mandate."

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

6. While organizing its work, the mission had before it the terms of reference, correspondence between the Secretary-General and the Head of State of Nigeria and background information provided by the Secretariat relating to the matters making up its terms of reference as well as other pertinent information on Nigeria.

7. The members of the mission were convened at United Nations Headquarters on 26 March 1996. They agreed to designate Justice Amega leader of the mission. The mission was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Political Affairs, and the Acting Director of the Africa II Division. The mission also met with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, the Legal Counsel, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations and the Permanent Observer for the Organization of African Unity to the United Nations.

8. On 27 March 1996, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria presented to the mission a draft programme for its visit to Nigeria.

9. The mission arrived in Lagos on 29 March 1996. Its proposed draft programme was further discussed with Nigerian Government officials in Abuja upon the mission's arrival there on 30 March 1996. These discussions dealt with the duration of the mission, its itinerary as well as the need to have free access to information and individuals.

10. The mission visited Abuja on 29, 30 and 31 March and 1, 2 and 11 April; Lagos on 3, 4, 12 and 13 April; Borno State on 5 April; Enugu and Osun States on 6 April; Kano on 7 April; and Rivers State on 8, 9 and 10 April.

11. The mission issued four press statements while in Nigeria, with a view to providing the public and the media with information about its task and inviting individuals and organizations interested in providing information or in being interviewed by the mission to contact it.

12. During its visit, the mission was informed by some persons and organizations that had attempted to make contact with it or had been interviewed by it that they had been arrested and/or detained. The mission raised the issue with the Federal Government and, in the case of the incident which had taken place in Rivers State, with the military administrator of that state.

13. The mission was able to interview several organizations and individuals, including some detainees, without the presence of Government officials.

14. The mission resumed its work in New York on 15 April 1996 and finalized its report on 22 April 1996.

IV. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON THE TRIALS OF MR. KEN SARO-WIWA AND OTHERS

15. The mission gathered information from the families of the victims (the four murdered chiefs), the families of Mr. Saro-Wiwa and others and Mr. Ledum Mitee - who had been acquitted in the trial - with a delegation from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). It interviewed two of the members of the special tribunal, three members of the prosecution team, and some members of both the defence counsel retained by the accused and those appointed by the tribunal. On 11 April 1996 in Abuja, the mission interviewed leading counsel for the defence, Chief Gani Fawaehinmi, and the second counsel, Mr. Femi Falana, currently held in detention. On 9 April 1996, in the course of its visit to the Ogoni areas, the mission visited Jiokoo, the site where the murders took place and Bani, the home of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa. The trials were also discussed by the mission in the course of its meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice/Attorney-General and his top aides, the Chief Justice, representatives of the Bar Association, political leaders, non-governmental organizations and political associations, in Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt and the other states visited by the mission.

16. The following paragraphs give a summary of the information received from the sources described in the preceding paragraphs.

17. The Ogonis (estimated at 500,000) constitute one of a number of minority ethnic groups living in the Niger delta region. They live in an area approximately 200 square kilometres wide in the Rivers State of Nigeria. The members of the Ogoni community complain that their area has been neglected, proper roads have not been maintained, adequate medical facilities have not been provided, the problem of large-scale unemployment has not been attended to and they are suffering from pollution of the environment, in particular of the land

and rivers on which they depend for their livelihood. This situation is all the more aggravated by the fact that oil is produced in Rivers State, including the areas inhabited by the Ogonis. Shell Oil Company used to have an active presence in the Rivers State, including head offices, oil extraction and other oil infrastructures. The Ogoni communities have felt for a long time that while oil was being extracted and produced from this state, inhabitants were not benefiting from the wealth of their land. Demands for improvement in the economic and social conditions were made by traditional chiefs as well as political leaders and environmentalists. These concerns were echoed by the traditional rulers of the area in the course of the visit of the mission to Port Harcourt. These grievances had motivated the leaders of the Ogoni communities to establish MOSOP in 1990, and the formulation of the Ogoni charter of demands in what is described as the "Ogoni Bill of Rights".

18. One of the objectives of MOSOP was to implement the provisions of the Ogoni Bill of Rights. Negotiations were held between the Federal and state governments on the one hand, and MOSOP on the other. However, in 1993 MOSOP became divided between the youths (who declared their support for Ken Saro-Wiwa), on the one hand, and the traditional rulers, on the other. The events of 21 May 1994, when four prominent Ogoni leaders were killed, constituted the basis for the prosecution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other persons accused with him.

19. The main arguments used against the trials and executions were advanced by several organizations, including MOSOP, the Nigerian Bar Association, the Civil Liberties Organization, Amnesty International (Nigeria section), the lawyers for the defence who resigned protesting against the rulings of the tribunal during its consideration of the case, and others. The following legal issues were raised:

(a) The validity of the Civil Disturbances (special tribunal) Act of 1987 was attacked on the ground that its denies fair trial, a right which is a guaranteed fundamental human right, both under the Nigerian Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(b) The constitution of the special tribunal is not valid for the reason that it was not preceded by the constitution of an investigation committee, a thorough investigation by the said committee and submission of its report as required by section 1 of the above-mentioned Act;

(c) The tribunal tried the defendants in two groups, in two concurrent trials, examining the same witnesses twice, thus causing grave prejudice to the defence;

(d) The refusal of the request of the defence by the tribunal to present a videotape showing the Military Administrator of Rivers State accusing Ken Saro-Wiwa of the murders at a press conference in May 1994, before the case was submitted to the tribunal; this ruling of the tribunal is evidence of bias against the defendants;

(e) The refusal of the tribunal to admit a videotape as evidence to bring out the contradiction in the testimony of a prosecution witness given before the tribunal is another circumstance indicating bias;

(f) The lack of right of appeal against the decision of the tribunal represents serious deficiency in the dispensation of justice;

(g) The haste with which the sentences were confirmed by the Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) implies that the Government had made up its mind and was not interested in a fair consideration of the case;

(h) The PRC confirmed the conviction and sentence even before the records of the trial were received. At any rate, it was impossible for the tribunal to provide within eight days (the period between the date of the judgement and the date of confirmation) original or certified copies of the records and the judgement to all the 25 members of the PRC;

(i) The failure of the defence lawyers (who were appointed by the tribunal after the withdrawal of the original defence lawyers in protest) to present the case of the defendants before the PRC in order to commute the sentences showed that the lawyers provided failed to protect the rights of the accused, thus violating their basic rights;

(j) The presence of a military officer on the tribunal affected its independence and impartiality;

(k) The tribunal proceeded with the trial even when their case was pending before the High Court wherein the accused had requested a stay of further proceedings on the ground that the members of the tribunal were biased.

20. The lawyers for the prosecution, the judges of the Ogoni Tribunal, the defence lawyers appointed by the Tribunal and Government officials argued that the procedures followed were consistent with Nigerian law and international humanitarian law. Their views may be summarized as follows:

(a) The Civil Disturbances Act of 1987 is consistent with the Nigerian Constitution. It has been applied in a number of cases since colonial times. Civil disturbances cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by regular courts because legal process is very long and time-consuming and this might exacerbate the situation unless immediate action is taken. The average case takes 5 to 10 years from the lower court to the Supreme Court. Cases of civil disturbance, therefore, may have to be dealt with by a special tribunal to ensure speedy trial. Similar tribunals have been constituted to try cases of armed robberies, drug trafficking and arms trafficking;

(b) The tribunal comprised two judges and a military officer specialized in criminology;

(c) The tribunal followed the Nigerian laws and held its sessions in the open, and the Government did not interfere in its proceedings;

(d) The tribunal examined all witnesses for the prosecution and defence. On some occasions it rejected motions by the prosecution and on others, by the defence;

(e) The original defence lawyers resigned because they felt that they would lose the case and not because of bias of the tribunal;

(f) The fact that the Vice-President of MOSOP, Mr. Ledum Mitee, was acquitted in this case shows that the trial was not motivated by any extraneous factors;

(g) The sentences were duly confirmed by the PRC and there is no evidence to show that the case was mishandled by the Government;

(h) The Government felt that it had a primary responsibility to maintain law and order in the country. It maintained that it had to take firm and effective steps to combat disorder and chaos. It believed that the speedy trial of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the others was necessary to prevent disintegration of the country.

V. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON THE TRANSITION PROGRAMME

A. Transition programme for restoring civil and democratic rule

21. In conformity with its terms of reference, the mission, throughout its visit to different parts of Nigeria, discussed the plans for transition to civil and democratic rule. These discussions showed a sharp division of views on this issue affecting the entire country, and more particularly since the annulment of the June 1993 presidential elections.

22. The military first took power in Nigeria in 1966; this was followed by the Biafra war. The end of the civil war, however, led to the consolidation of power by the armed forces. It was also stated that the armed forces had intervened, on occasions, at the request of the political leadership when the latter failed to resolve their differences and the country was faced with civil disorder and chaos. The mission was informed that the current military Government had been encouraged to take power by the political parties, supported by professional organizations, trade unions, women's groups and individuals.

23. Subsequent to the assumption of power by the current military Government in 1993, a Constitutional Conference was convened in 1994, two thirds of the delegates to which had been elected and one third designated by the Government. Upon conclusion of the work of the conference, a draft Constitution was proposed together with measures to be taken to assist the country to change over to civil democratic rule. On 1 October 1995, the Head of State announced a transition programme to culminate with the election of a president and the restoration of civil and democratic rule with effect from 1 October 1998. The transition was to take three years and was to be assisted by the establishment of a number of commissions designed to bring it about. These commissions are the following:

Transition Implementation Commission; State Creation, Local Government and Boundary Commission; National Electoral Commission; National Reconciliation Commission; and the Federal Character Commission.

24. As stated above, Nigerian society is polarized. The opposition represented by a number of political associations, human rights activists and individuals, including former Cabinet ministers, governors and members of Parliament, were vehement in their opposition to the programme. They considered it a ploy by the military leadership to maintain power. They referred to similar arguments advanced by the previous regime and expressed apprehensions that the same tactics would be used when the time for departure of the military from power arrives in 1998. They pointed out that on the pretext of transition to civil and democratic rule, General Babangida continued in power for eight years, and likewise that the current military regime planned to continue its rule for as long a period of five years. Furthermore, they considered the programme too long, cumbersome, and a waste of time and resources. Moreover, the 1995 draft Constitution and the related arrangements were liable to be - and had been - altered by the military Government and there was therefore no guarantee that the transition programme would be implemented.

25. On the other hand, some of the opposition groups called for the handing over of power to an interim national Government which would immediately hold a national conference of all political forces to discuss the crises facing Nigeria. The proposed national conference should address itself to issues like the federation, the distribution of resources and institutions dealing with the democratization process and draft a new constitution.

26. Among those who had expressed grave doubts about the transition programme, some stated that the general framework of the transition programme could be used to bring about democratic rule if certain measures were taken. These measures might include, as a minimum, the following:

(a) Immediate release of all political prisoners and detainees;

(b) Abrogation of Decree No. 2 of 1984, which confers arbitrary power of detention without charge;

(c) Immediate restoration of the power of the courts to issue writs of habeas corpus;

(d) Abrogation of all decrees which exclude the jurisdiction of regular courts;

(e) The commitment to respect and obey all court orders;

(f) The commitment to end the practice of seizing passports, thus denying Nigerian citizens their right to freedom of movement;

(g) The commitment to end the harassment by the police and security forces of opponents of the regime;

(h) Amendment of Decree No. 1 of 1996, concerning the transition programme, in particular section 6, to remove sanctions for criticism of the programme and the tribunal envisaged under that decree to try offences under it;

(i) Repeal of Government decrees that interfere with the provisions of the Constitution;

(j) The commitment to ensure that the National Electoral Commission is composed of members of all the political parties contesting the elections;

(k) Supervision of the Nigerian elections by United Nations and other international observers to ensure fairness;

(l) The commitment of the international community, particularly the United Nations, to be vigilant and follow closely the developments in Nigeria to maintain the pressure on the military Government not to reverse the democratic process at the last moment, as has been the case in the past.

27. During its meetings with Government officials, the mission was informed of the irrevocable commitment to implement the transition programme. The sincerity of the commitment of the military Government is evidenced by the important steps it has taken, which include:

(a) Several decrees have since been promulgated to give legal backing to the entire programme;

(b) Various commissions and other bodies have been established under these decrees, such as the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON), which will conduct all elections, register political parties, delimit constituencies, etc.;

(c) NECON has just conducted elections to all the 589 municipal authorities, otherwise known as local Government Councils. The Government asserts that the elections were conducted peacefully, the turnout by voters was massive and the election was fair;

(d) The elections can be challenged in the newly established election tribunals.

28. The mission raised the issue of ouster clauses in decrees issued by the Government that precluded courts from inquiring into the validity of orders made under such decrees. Government officials pointed out that Nigerian courts had always asserted their judicial independence and had in a number of cases questioned the validity of such orders despite the ouster clauses, in the exercise of their inherent judicial powers conferred on them by the 1979 Constitution as amended. They cited the challenge to the decree concerning the closure of the premises of the newspaper The Guardian.

29. The Government cited the emergency situation in the country as a justification for Decree No. 2 of 1984, which provides for detention without trial.

30. It was submitted, on behalf of the Government, that the civil and democratic rule in the country had failed on several occasions, paving the way for military rule whenever a president from one region was elected, resulting in great disappointment and agitation by the people from the other regions. It was stated that the new Constitution had resolved this problem by ensuring due participation of all sections/parts of the State in running the Government and equitably sharing power. Reference was made in this connection to the following statement delivered by the Head of State on 1 October 1995:

> "The national political offices which will be filled by candidates on a rotational basis are: President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives. This power-sharing arrangement which shall be entrenched in the Constitution shall be at Federal level and applicable for an experimental period of 30 (thirty) years."

31. Government officials requested that the mission take cognizance of the fact that peace and stability prevailed in Nigeria. They compared conditions in the country with those of other countries in Africa and beyond and emphasized that Nigeria was a free country. They also cited the contributions of Nigerian forces to United Nations operations in different parts of the world and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the whole of the west African region depended on and was linked to the Nigerian economy and harming Nigeria economically would affect the whole region. The mission wishes to indicate that many non-governmental organizations, particularly women's groups, expressed the view that economic sanctions against Nigeria would be devastating to the country, particularly to women and children.

32. The Foreign Minister accused certain opposition groups of being financed and managed from abroad to harm Nigeria. He assured the mission that the programme for transition to civil democratic rule was irreversible, that three years were needed to bring about a multi-party democracy representing all the States in the Federation and that the military leadership had no intention of staying in power beyond October 1998.

B. Political prisoners and detainees

33. In the fulfilment of its mandate, the mission raised the issue of political prisoners and detainees, notably at its meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice and other authorities.

34. Release of political prisoners and detainees is of great importance to the democratization process. It was stressed by several persons and organizations appearing before the mission that no programme for transformation to democratic rule could be taken seriously while people were or could be detained in the country for their political beliefs.

35. Accordingly, on 1 April 1996, the mission addressed a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting that arrangements be made for the mission to interview 12 specifically named political prisoners. On

4 April 1996, the mission addressed a second letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs furnishing an additional list of three political prisoners and requested for arrangements to be made to interview them as well.

36. On 6 April 1996, the Minister for Foreign Affairs replied to the Chairman of the mission stating that five of the persons listed by the mission were not detained (Chief Michael Ajasin, Chief Anthony E. Enahoro, Rear Admiral Ndubuisi Kanu (Rtd.), Chief C. C. Onoh and Col. Yohanna Madaki) and that of the remaining 10, 4 were categorized as having been already convicted and serving a sentence (General Olusegun Obasanjo, Major-General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua (Rtd.), Mr. Beko Ransome-Kuti and Mrs. C. Anyanwu), 1 was in police custody under judicial order awaiting trial (Chief M. K. O. Abiola) and 5 were detained for acts prejudicial to State security and public order but not yet arraigned before a court of law (Mr. Femi Falana, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, Mr. Nosa Igiebor, Mr. Frank Kokori and Mr. Milton Dabibi).

37. The Nigerian Government expressed the view that the mission's proposal had been to meet and interview persons that had been convicted and were serving a sentence was not in consonance with the terms of reference of the mission. However, arrangements would be made for the mission to meet Chief M. K. O. Abiola and some of the detainees listed by the Government as being detained for acts prejudicial to State security and public order. The Foreign Minister informed the mission that the modalities as well as the time and place for the meetings would be worked out to suit the schedule and convenience of the mission. On the same day, 6 April 1996, the mission replied to the Minister for Foreign Affairs acknowledging his letter and reiterating the view of the mission that its terms of reference necessitated that it interview all the persons mentioned in the letter of the Foreign Minister and described as being in detention, irrespective of whether they had been convicted and were serving a sentence or whether they were held in custody "awaiting arraignment before a court".

38. On 11 April 1996, in Abuja, the mission interviewed Chief M. K. O. Abiola, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, Mr. Femi Falana and Mr. Nosa Igiebor.

39. All four detainees with whom the mission met complained that they were not being provided with proper medical care, that newspapers and reading materials were not provided, that the members of their families and their lawyers were not allowed to meet and that they were being held in solitary confinement. The mission has taken account of the information obtained in the course of these interviews in the appropriate sections of the present report.

VI. ANALYSIS AND OBSERVATIONS

A. Trials of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others

40. The mission is required under its terms of reference to address itself to the procedures followed in the trial of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others, in the context both of the relevant international human rights instruments, to which Nigeria is a party, and of relevant Nigerian law.

41. The constitution of special tribunals has been established in Nigerian law since colonial times. Special tribunals have been constituted for specific offences such as armed robbery, drug trafficking and illegal bankruptcy. Indeed, special tribunals were set up in the past, as early as in 1981 and 1986. In both those instances, the tribunals were established in conformity with the procedures envisaged in the Act; investigation committees were established prior to the decision to constitute a tribunal. Whereas special tribunals do form an integral part of the regular judicial system of Nigeria, the special tribunal that tried Ken Saro-Wiwa was established without a report by a duly constituted investigation committee.

42. The establishment of the special tribunals is governed by section 2, part II, of Act No. 2 of 1987. Under part I, section 1, the Act envisages the constitution of a civil disturbance investigation committee whenever the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, forms the opinion that any one of the following four conditions exists:

(a) There have occurred civil disturbances, commotions or unrest in any part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(b) There has been a breach of the peace that would have the effect of destabilizing the peace and tranquillity of the nation;

(c) The public order and public safety of Nigeria is being threatened by any disturbance;

(d) There has occurred or may likely occur a riot or civil disturbances of a riotous nature resulting or likely to result, as the case may be, in loss of life and property and injury to persons.

43. The Act requires the investigation committee to conduct an investigation into the civil disturbances and to make recommendations for the trial of any person or persons involved in the civil disturbances. The committee thus constituted shall consist of such persons as the President may appoint and may, subject to any general or specific directions that may be given in that behalf by the President, regulate its own proceedings as it may deem fit.

44. It is necessary to point out that the copy of the order made by the President under section 1 constituting the investigating committee and the copy of the report of the investigation committee were not produced either before the tribunal or before the present mission even though ample opportunity was available to the Nigerian Government to do so. It was not contended before the tribunal that the investigation committee had been constituted and that it had submitted its report. There is also nothing to indicate that the President had formed an opinion about the existence of any one of the conditions specified in clauses (a) to (d) of subsection 1 of section 1 of the Act. The names of the members constituting the investigating committee and a copy of the report of the investigation committee were not made available to the mission. The mission is therefore of the opinion that the President had not constituted a civil disturbance investigation committee and there is no report as contemplated by section 1 of the Act.

45. Part II, section 3, provides that the special tribunal shall try the offences specified in the first schedule of the Act; and the jurisdiction of the regular criminal courts is ousted. The provisions of the Act which oust the jurisdiction of the regular courts have to be strictly construed. The conditions for the constitution of a special tribunal must be found to exist before its constitution. The procedure prescribed by the Act for ascertaining these conditions must be strictly followed. In the context, the expression "may constitute a special investigation committee" used in section 1 of the Act has, in the opinion of the mission, to be construed as being mandatory in character and the word "may", in the context, means "shall". The special tribunal to try Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others, constituted in violation of section 1 of the Act, had no jurisdiction to try Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others.

46. Section 8, which ousts the jurisdiction of the court of law to inquire into the validity of any decision, sentence, judgement, confirmation, direction, notice or order given or made under the Act, cannot be successfully invoked in this case, firstly because the contention regarding constitution and jurisdiction of the tribunal was not raised before a court of law but before the special tribunal itself and, secondly, for the reason that the contention does not bear on the validity of any decision or order, the order constituting the tribunal being void ab initio and therefore non est.

47. Furthermore, the procedures actually followed in the course of the trials were not fair, as may be illustrated by the following:

(a) Denial of access to counsel for a long period prior to the opening of the trials. The mission notes that Mr. Saro-Wiwa and others were detained on the night of the incident, on 21 May 1994, without charge, and brought to trial on 6 February 1995. During this period they were held in inhuman conditions and denied access to counsel;

(b) Whereas after the opening of the proceedings, the tribunal accorded two weeks for the defence counsel to prepare the brief, access to counsel was limited by the condition of detention of the accused in a military base;

(c) The military was involved in all phases of the trial, as a result of which serious allegations were made affecting the credibility of witnesses, freedom of access to the tribunal and intimidation of the accused, their relatives and other members of the public;

(d) The defence counsel were harassed by the military personnel by requiring them to request permission of them to enter the courts and submitting them in the process to hardship, indignities and waste of time;

(e) Instead of furnishing the copies of the statements of witnesses as recorded by the investigation agency, only the summary of the statements of witnesses were furnished to the accused;

(f) A videotape which was relied upon by the defence as an important piece of evidence was not permitted to be produced before the tribunal;

(g) Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa had a prepared statement which he tendered to the commission to be taken into consideration as his statement. The tribunal refused to receive the statement;

(h) Affidavits on behalf of the defence by some of the witnesses examined by the prosecution stating that they had been bribed by the authorities to make their statements were not received in evidence;

(i) The tribunal refused to stay further proceedings even though a request was made to that effect on the ground that an appeal had been preferred requesting the Appellate Court to stay the further proceedings before the tribunal on the ground that its members were biased against the accused.

48. Part III, section 7, provides for "confirmation" of the sentence as follows:

> "7. (1) Where a tribunal finds the accused guilty of any offence referred to in this Act, the record of the proceedings of the tribunal shall be transmitted to the confirming authority for confirmation of the sentence imposed by the tribunal.
>
> "(2) Any sentence imposed by the tribunal shall not take effect until the conviction or sentence is confirmed by the confirming authority and pending such confirmation the convicted offender shall be kept in such place of safe custody as the tribunal may determine.
>
> "(3) The confirming authority may confirm or vary the sentence of the tribunal.
>
> "(4) For the purposes of this Act, the confirming authority shall be the Armed Forces Ruling Council."

49. This procedure does not provide for judicial review by way of appeal or revision. The limited review contemplated is in the process of confirmation of the conviction and sentence contemplated by subsection 2 of section 7.

50. The mission was not informed of the procedures, if any, followed by the PRC under this provision. It notes that the death sentences handed down in both trials on 30 and 31 October were confirmed on 8 November 1995, and the executions carried out within 48 hours, namely on 10 November 1995. It was submitted to the mission that, within that time-frame, the records of the proceedings were not yet completed and that therefore the provisions of section 7 (1) could not have been complied with. It was said that the convicted persons were thus deprived of the right to have their death sentence reviewed. The mission was informed that in at least one earlier case a death sentence handed down by a civil disturbances special tribunal had been commuted by the confirming authority to a sentence of five years' imprisonment.

51. Subsection 2 of section 7 provides that any sentence imposed by the tribunal shall not be carried out until the conviction or sentence is confirmed by the Armed Forces Ruling Council. Subsection 3 says that the confirming

authority may either confirm or vary the sentence of the tribunal. If both subsections 2 and 3 are read together, it would follow that the confirming authority is statutorily required to apply its mind to the records of the case in order to decide as to whether the conviction on merits is justified or not and if the conviction is justified as to whether the sentence imposed is excessive.

52. Examination of the records of the case, which means consideration of the entire evidence and the judgements, has to be made by the PRC in order to satisfy the provisions of section 7. It was submitted before the mission that the records in this case as well as in the connected cases covering several thousand pages were not ready and were therefore not sent to the confirming authority before it took the decision to confirm the conviction and sentence. The period between the date of pronouncement of the judgement and the date of confirmation is hardly eight days. Even with the best of efforts and diligence, it was not humanly possible to achieve the feat of preparing the records and transmitting the same from Port Harcourt to Abuja. As the two trials were conducted concurrently, the records of both the cases had to be prepared and dispatched and the PRC was required to peruse those records before it took a decision to confirm the conviction and sentence on 8 November 1995. Having regard to the circumstances, it is obvious that the confirmation was recorded without the application of mind by the members of the Council to the records of the case as required by section 7 of the Act. The requirements of section 7 being mandatory, confirmation by the confirming authority is not legal and valid.

53. The President, it was submitted before the mission, has the power of according clemency and such power was in fact exercised on several occasions. In this connection, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, in article 6, paragraph 4, as follows:

> "Anyone sentenced to death shall have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence. Amnesty, pardon or commutation of the sentence of death may be granted in all cases."

In order to enable the person convicted to petition the President for clemency, he should be provided with a copy of the judgement and given a reasonable period to study, prepare and submit the petition for clemency. In the present case, the period between the date of the judgement and the date of confirmation was eight days and the period between the date of confirmation and the date of execution was two days. By any reasonable standards this can hardly be regarded as a reasonably sufficient period for the convicted persons to submit a petition for clemency.

54. The mission notes that the right of appeal is recognized in Nigerian law in all cases tried under criminal law; this is especially the case when the offence is one of murder. Moreover, right of appeal is recognized in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 14 (5)). In this context, the mission was informed that at the time of the executions, an appeal filed on 25 July 1995 to the Court of Appeal from a decision of the High Court, rejecting the application for stay of proceedings on the ground of procedural and personal bias in the tribunal, was still pending.

55. In the view of the mission, the composition of the special tribunal is not in conformity with the standard of impartiality and independence set out in applicable human rights law as found in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (article 7 (1) (d) and article 26) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 14 (1)). The presence of a military officer on the tribunal is, in the view of the mission, contrary to these provisions.

B. Implementation of the transition programme

56. The second matter to which the mission has addressed itself is the plan of the Government of Nigeria to implement its declared commitment to restore the country to civil democratic rule. These plans and this commitment are to be found in the statement made by General Sani Abacha on 1 October 1995. The mission notes that, since then, a number of steps have been taken to implement this commitment. Local government elections (on a non-party basis) were held in March of this year. In January 1996, three decrees were promulgated, namely, Decree No. 1, entitled "Transition to Civil Rule (Political programme)"; Decree No. 2, "Transition to Civil Rule (Lifting of Ban on Politics)"; and Decree No. 3, "National Electoral Commission of Nigeria". These three decrees set out the details of the calendar of transition, which is the process of electing local governments, State governments and a President by 1 October 1998, the date set for the return to civil rule.

57. The information received by the mission on this issue may be grouped in three parts: (a) the views according to which these plans and the activities carried out thereunder constitute the best response by the Government to the recognized need to return to civil democratic rule; (b) the opposite view that the plans are doomed to failure and may only be considered, at best, a pretext to perpetuate military rule in Nigeria; and (c) the view according to which, regardless of the intentions, the plans could be successfully implemented if the current climate were to be improved to provide greater assurance and confidence among all sectors of Nigerian society.

58. The mission found that the division in Nigerian society is quite sharp. Positive efforts on behalf of the Government, political associations and individuals are important to heal the wounds in society and move forward towards civil democratic rule. Therefore, confidence-building measures are needed in order to ensure the success of the programme.

59. The release of political prisoners and detainees is one of the major steps in confidence-building.

60. The abrogation of Decree No. 2 of 1984, concerning arrest without trial of political opponents of the regime, and section 6 of Decree No. 1 of 1996, concerning the promulgation of the transition programme which prescribes fines and imprisonment for those who criticize the programme, as well as other decrees restricting political activities and freedoms are essential steps to achieve national reconciliation.

61. The mission found the press in Nigeria to be vigorous and alert. Whereas a large measure of freedom is enjoyed, there is disturbing evidence of harassment of some journalists and closing of newspapers.

62. Opposition groups are not willing to cooperate with the Government in the implementation of the programme until the restrictions on the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms by all are removed.

63. While at the moment the opponents of the regime refuse to cooperate with it or to participate in the election process, the mission feels that these rigid postures would soften if confidence-building measures were taken by the Government.

64. Both the Government and the opposition welcome the role of the United Nations and of international observers to monitor the elections.

65. There was general opposition to any sanctions against Nigeria. It was pointed out that sanctions would hurt only ordinary people and had a negative impact not only on Nigerian society but also on the whole West African region.

66. It would appear to the mission that there is consensus in Nigeria on the following: (a) the military Government must come to an end and civil democratic rule should be restored; (b) the electoral process should involve international observation/monitoring; and (c) persons detained without charge and other persons currently in prison for political reasons or offences should be released before the elections.

67. The mission received numerous expressions of concern stemming from various aspects of the current situation. It was pointed out that at present the judiciary is not in a position to carry out the constitutional responsibilities entrusted to it in protecting fundamental human rights as its jurisdiction is curtailed by the issuance of decrees that have made serious inroads into the authority of the courts in regard to both fundamental issues of substance, such as basic human rights provisions, and procedures such as the resort to special tribunals.

68. Furthermore, the mission noted expressions of concern about interference in the right to freedom of association of certain sectors such as the labour organizations, the Medical Association and the Bar Association, and the National Association of Businessmen. This attitude of the Government has created a situation in which the plans for transition were viewed with considerable scepticism and suspicion, strengthening the view among those who felt that a military Government could not conceivably usher in a truly civil democratic rule.

69. Another criticism recorded by the mission was that the bodies supervising the transition did not have adequate representation from all sections of society. The case of the National Election Commission was cited as being particularly significant as it was essential for that body to enjoy nationwide recognition and respect for its authority.

70. Numerous persons and organizations interviewed by the mission expressed the view that the transition calendar was unnecessarily prolonged and that this constituted a threat to the success of the process, casting doubt on the bona fides of the transition programme. Others expressed the view that the longer duration of the transition was justified because, in addition to the process of election, other steps had to be taken for devolution of power and resources before full civil democratic rule could be restored.

71. A Constitution Conference was convened on 27 June 1994. The Conference prepared a draft Constitution, which was presented to the President on 7 June 1995. The draft Constitution, as proposed by the Conference, was further modified by the Provisional Ruling Council before it was approved. On 1 October 1995, the President announced plans for the transition and gave details of the timetable leading up to 1 October 1998, which was set as the date for swearing in the newly elected president and the final disengagement of military rule. In the same address, the President announced the establishment of a number of committees, consistent with the recommendations of the Constitutional Conference, for the purpose of facilitating the transition programme. Apprehension was however expressed by several others who felt that in the absence of adequate guarantees there was no possibility of successful completion of the transition programme. Moreover, the role of the military in controlling the transition process was a source of scepticism concerning the sincerity of the transition process. Some others echoed the view that the transition to democracy should be conducted by a sovereign national conference.

72. The mission observes that the differences of views reflected in the report of the Constitutional Conference as regards the duration of the transition and the role of the military in that transition, still persists today. This has created a situation which, in the view of the mission, constitutes a serious threat to the successful realization of the transition. However, in the view of the mission, any attempt to interrupt or reverse the momentum that is being generated could prove counter-productive and further delay the realization of the goal to bring about civil democratic rule. In the opinion of the mission, there is a need to take appropriate confidence-building measures.

73. We have given as fair an account as possible of what we were able to gather during our visit to Nigeria. Our meetings and discussions with General Sani Abacha and others have given us the impression that the Head of the State is sincere in his commitment to restore civil democratic rule by 1 October 1998 in accordance with his declared commitment. The Nigerian people as a whole are against continuance of the military rule.

74. The current military Administration appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General in sending the mission; this appreciation was also expressed by those who oppose the military Administration. It was hoped that these efforts of the Secretary-General would help to restore to Nigeria its rightful place in the comity of nations.

75. The Head of the State has displayed statesmanship by his willingness to be transparent by inviting a neutral United Nations fact-finding mission to Nigeria. This indicates the willingness of the military Administration to consider proposals that may be made by the mission.

76. The mission is of the opinion that sanctions against Nigeria at this stage may prove unhelpful and retard the progress towards positive improvement. The mission would like to make some helpful and constructive recommendations to build up confidence and to improve the situation, which, we hope, the Nigerian Government can be persuaded by the Secretary-General to accept and implement in the spirit in which the Nigerian Government and the Secretary-General agreed to send this mission.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

77. As required by its terms of reference, the mission makes the following recommendations for action which, in the view of the mission, could usefully be taken, inter alia, by the Government of Nigeria:

In regard to the trial of Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and others

(a) The Government of Nigeria should repeal the Civil Disturbances (Special Tribunal) Act of 18 March 1987 so that offences of this type are tried by the ordinary criminal courts;

(b) In the alternative, the mission recommends that the following amendments be effected to the said Act:

(i) Section 2 (2b) of the Act providing for appointment of the serving member of the armed forces as a member of the special tribunal should be deleted;

(ii) A specific provision should be incorporated to the effect that the members of the special tribunal shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria;

(iii) Section 7 of the Act should be amended to provide for confirmation of the order of conviction and sentence by the Nigerian Court of Appeal in place of confirmation by the Provisional Ruling Council;

(iv) Section 8 of the Act which excludes the jurisdiction of the courts of law to review the decision of the special tribunal should be deleted and the power of the superior courts to issue writ of habeas corpus should be restored;

(v) A specific provision should be made to provide for an appeal against the decision of the special tribunal to the Supreme Court of Nigeria;

(c) In the case of the trials of Ken Saro-Wiwa and others, the Government of Nigeria should consider establishing a panel of eminent jurists, nominated by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, to establish the modalities to determine who and to what extent financial relief could be accorded to the dependents of the families of the deceased;

(d) All the trials pending and contemplated under the Civil Disturbance (Special Tribunal) Act should be suspended and further action taken only after the above-mentioned amendments are carried out.

In regard to the situation of the Ogoni people

The mission recommends the constitution of a committee comprised of representatives of the Ogoni community and other minority groups in the region to be chaired by a retired judge of the High Court for the purpose of introducing improvements in the socio-economic conditions of these communities, enhancing employment opportunities, health, education and welfare services and to act as ombudsman in any complaint/allegations of harassment at the hands of the authorities. This committee may make recommendations for the Government to carry out.

In regard to the transition programme

The mission recommends that the Government:

(a) Strengthen the existing committees and commissions established to usher in democratic civil rule by incorporating persons holding different shades of opinion, those representing professional associations, political groups and ethnic minorities;

(b) Invite an international team, composed of observers from the United Nations and/or the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to be stationed in Nigeria to monitor the implementation of all the remaining stages of the transition programme, including the elections;

(c) Designate a review committee under the chairmanship of a judge of the superior court to examine the decrees promulgated by the military Government to date to identify and recommend the repeal of such of those decrees or provisions thereof that encroach on the human rights provisions of the Constitution or otherwise hinder the supremacy of the rule of law;

(d) Ensure that the executive branches of Government and, in particular, the various State and armed forces security agencies respect and promptly carry out the decisions, orders and judgements of the courts;

(e) Release all persons detained under Decree No. 2 of 1984 and similar decrees and grant amnesty to persons who have been convicted for political offences;

(f) Lift the existing restrictions in law, in fact and in practice and refrain from imposing other restrictions on political and professional associations, and labour unions, in accordance with the national and international norms on freedom of association;

(g) Remove restrictions on the right of freedom of expression of the press, release journalists and refrain from harassing the media;

(h) Give wide publicity to and make available copies of the 1995 draft Constitution.

78. The mission recommends that the Secretary-General continue the dialogue with the Head of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in creating conditions for the restoration of civil democratic rule.

Read and adopted at United Nations Headquarters today, the twenty-third day of April, nineteen hundred ninety-six.

(Signed) John P. PACE (Signed) V. A. MALIMATH (Signed) Atsu-Koffi AMEGA

ANNEX II

Interim response of the Government of Nigeria to the report of the fact-finding mission

Letter dated 21 May 1996 from the Special Adviser (Legal Matters) to the Head of State of Nigeria addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been directed by the Head of State, General Sani Abacha, to communicate to you the underlisted as his interim response to the various recommendations contained in the said report which was submitted to him by Ambassador Brahimi, your Special Envoy.

1. The Civil Disturbances Act under which Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others were tried and convicted will be amended: (a) to exclude members of the armed forces from serving on the tribunal; and (b) its verdict and sentence shall be subject to judicial review at the appellate level before confirmation by the confirming authority.

2. The Oil and Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) will be directed to look into whether there are peculiar ecological and environmental problems in the Ogoni area with a view to ameliorating them. The Federal Government will, with vigour, join the concerted efforts currently being undertaken by the Administrator, Rivers State, to reconcile all the parties in the Ogoni area.

3. The Head of State has directed the immediate review of the cases of all persons currently being detained without trial under Decree No. 2 of 1984 as amended. Very shortly, such persons will be released based on an assessment of the individual merit of each case.

4. Decree No. 2 of 1984, as amended, which presently permits the detention of persons suspected of engaging in acts prejudicial to State security without trial and for an indefinite period will be amended to allow for the periodic review of each case by a body comprising the Chief of General Staff, the Inspector General of Police and the Attorney General of the Federation at an interval of three months.

5. Decree No. 14 of 1994 which ousts the jurisdiction of courts to issue the writ of habeas corpus to persons detained under Decree No. 2 of 1984, as amended, will be repealed.

I am also to assure Your Excellency that other aspects of the report are currently under serious consideration and the Government will in due course convey its decisions on them.

Finally, I am to further assure Your Excellency that the Head of State, General Sani Abacha, deeply appreciates the understanding and support which you have consistently shown to him personally and to the people of Nigeria in these trying times. He also warmly welcomes the ongoing dialogue between him and Your

Excellency under your good offices which is aimed at assisting his Administration in its current efforts to return the country to a democratically elected civilian administration in 1998 in accordance with the transition to civil rule programme launched on 1 October 1995.

(Signed) Auwalo Hamisu YADUDU
Special Adviser (Legal Matters)
to the Head of State

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Agenda item 44
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 23 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such attacks that took place during April 1996.

At 1500 hours on 1 April 1996 an Israeli patrol consisting of 70 men and seven vehicles entered the town of Arnun and closed the road between the Birkat Arnun locality and Yuhmur. It withdrew at 1630 hours on the same day under cover of flares and overflights by Israeli warplanes. No casualties were reported.

At 0130 on 5 April an Israeli force infiltrated into the Jisr al-Sitt Zubaydah area between the towns of Habbush and Humin al-Fawqa. A clash took place between the force and elements of the national resistance, and this continued until the Israeli force withdrew at 0145 hours. There were no reports of casualties.

At 1830 hours on 8 April 1996 three booby-trapped explosive charges were detonated on the outskirts of Bra'shit in the Bint Jubayl district. Mazin Farahat, a 17-year-old Lebanese, was killed, and Ibrahim Imad Farahat (8), Muhammad Husayn Ubayd (6) and Ali Kamal Shihab (25) were wounded. Mazin's body was taken to the Jabal Amil Hospital in Tyre.

At 0930 hours on 7 April 1996 Israeli forces bombarded the outskirts of Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills.

At 0600 hours on 9 April the outskirts of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Tulin and Qabrikha came

under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by warplanes.

At 0800 hours on 9 April Israeli warplanes carried out attacks on the outskirts of Jumayjimah, Sultaniyah and Tibnin and on the Wadi al-Khanuq area. Four rockets were fired. There were no reports of casualties.

At 0730 hours on 9 April the outskirts of Hinniyah, Izziyah, Mansuri and Mazra'ah came under Israeli bombardment.

At 1500 hours on 8 April 1996 Israeli forces and Lahad forces expelled Maryam Yusuf Salihah, a 53-year-old Lebanese, from the border-strip area through the Kafr Tibnit crossing.

At 0800 hours on 9 April Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqwiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Mazra'at al-Hamra. This was accompanied by low-altitude overflights by Israeli warplanes.

At 1430 hours on 10 April 1996 Israeli forces shelled the towns of Kafra and Yatar and the outskirts of Haris. There were no reports of casualties.

At 1840 hours on 10 April two Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre area at low altitude. Ground-based anti-aircraft fire was directed against them.

On the morning of 11 April a number of Israeli naval craft patrolled Lebanese territorial waters between Naqurah and Sidon, approaching close to the shore.

At 0715 hours on 11 April Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire from the Lebanese Army. At around 0750 hours on the same day an aircraft fired two rockets at a Lebanese Army base located near the Imam al-Sadr institutions in Tyre, wounding a number of soldiers. The wounded were taken to hospitals in Tyre. Serious damage was done to a troop carrier belonging to the Lebanese Army. Earlier, at 0700 hours, Israeli aircraft had overflown the Nabatiyah area and had made two consecutive attacks on the town of Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills.

At 0900 hours on 11 April Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from the Lebanese Army.

At 0630 hours on 11 April 1996 the outskirts of Tibnin, Yatar, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Haris, Kafra and Jumayjimah came under Israeli artillery fire. At 0900 hours on the same day Israeli helicopters overflew the villages in the Bint Jubayl district at low altitudes.

At 0950 hours on 11 April the hills to the south of Mashgharah and the environs of Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1015 hours on 11 April an Israeli naval craft attempted to approach a gas tanker at anchor off Mina' al-Zahrani. It was intercepted by the shore-defence batteries of the Lebanese Army, and they prevented it from approaching.

At 1045 hours on 11 April 1996 Israeli warplanes overflew the Beirut area and the southern suburbs. The movement of air traffic at Beirut International Airport was suspended until 1130 hours.

Following the Israeli bombardment and frequent overflights by Israeli warplanes of the Bint Jubayl area, some 25 per cent of the inhabitants left for safer areas.

A Lebanese Army troop carrier was hit in the bombardment and set on fire. Sergeant Salamah Awdah and Private Hasan al-Husayni were wounded. Israeli warplanes continued to overfly the Tyre area intermittently.

At 1115 hours on 11 April 1996 Israeli warplanes attacked a point near a Lebanese Army checkpoint in the town of Jba' in the Marjah area. A soldier at the checkpoint was wounded.

At 1100 hours on 11 April Israeli helicopters attacked a building in Harat Hurayk and a parking lot at Al-Sahil hospital. Four persons were wounded and serious damage was done to nearby property.

At 1130 hours on 11 April Israeli helicopter gunships attacked the Mathanah locality in the outskirts of Shhur. Al-Hajj Fakhri Abu Mustafa was killed and four cars were badly damaged.

At 1300 hours on 11 April Israeli helicopters attacked the Abu Mahir restaurant in Jiyah opposite the Jiyah factory. A young man and a young woman in a car were killed, four persons were injured, and four vehicles were set on fire.

At 1200 hours on 11 April two Israeli helicopters overflew the area off the Zahrani installations, protecting an Israeli warship.

At 1230 hours on 11 April Israeli forces shelled the towns of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Sawwanah and Damuriyah and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

At 1250 hours on 11 April Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the camps nearby and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 1500 hours on 11 April Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of Hinniyah, Qulaylah and Zibqin. Two persons were wounded.

At 1700 hours on 11 April Israeli artillery shelled most of the villages in the Bint Jubayl area.

At 1700 hours on 11 April Israeli helicopters attacked the Dirdghayya - Shhur road near the UNIFIL checkpoint. A vehicle was hit by an air-to-ground missile and two persons were slightly injured.

At 1900 hours on 11 April an Israeli force of some 25 men entered the Jazzin area and took up positions in a Lahad forces post at Kafr Falus after some of members of the Lahad forces had been withdrawn to an unknown destination.

On 12 April the towns of Sultaniyah and Tibnin came under concentrated Israeli artillery fire which then spread to Atya al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Qabrikha and Tulin. At 2000 hours warplanes attacked the towns of Haddatha and Majdal Silm, leaving a number of dead and wounded. Among those known to have been killed was Badriyah Murtada (45) from Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn.

At 0830 hours on 12 April Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of Siddiqin, Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin.

At 0900 hours on 12 April the outskirts of Kafr Rumman, Jibshit, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Kafr Tibnit, Wadi Shukin, Adshit, Mayfadun, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Kafr Dijjal, Haruf, Habbush, Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Ayn Qana, Kafr Fila, Humin al-Fawqa and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours on 12 April the outskirts of Qulaylah, Mansuri and Ma'lliyah came under Israeli artillery fire. Two persons were wounded.

At 1045 hours on 12 April Israeli warplanes attacked the outskirts of Jibshit and the Maslakh neighbourhood of Nabatiyah. Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of Yuhmur, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Shukin, Mayfadun, Kafr Tibnit and Tibnin. One person was injured in Mayfadun.

At 1330 hours on 13 April the outskirts of Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah, Qilya and Zillaya came under Israeli artillery fire. The bombardment then spread to include the inner neighbourhoods of Mashgharah. The following were killed in the bombardment: Ghufran Salih Karim (17), Ibtisam Yusuf, Rana al-Yusuf, Rima al-Yusuf, Lara al-Yusuf, Ghadah al-Yusuf, Wajib Mun'im, and Absah Sha'shu'. The shelling continued intermittently before stopping at 2300 hours.

At 1500 hours on 12 April Israeli artillery shelled the towns of Aytit and Siddiqin and the outskirts of Bazuriyah. Two people were wounded.

At 1500 hours on 12 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Hurj al-Qatil area in Bi'r Hasan and a Syrian forces base in Azwa'i. A number of people were wounded.

At 1645 hours and again at 1735 hours on 12 April Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1715 hours on 12 April Israeli aircraft attacked the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa in four waves.

At 1800 hours on 12 April the outskirts of Sarba and the Muruj ridge came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1810 hours on 12 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Ayn Qana - Sarba - Humin al-Fawqa triangle, targeting a Lebanese Army checkpoint. At the same time, artillery shelled the towns of Kafr Rumman and Kafr Jawz. The home of Abbas Khaz'al in the Kafr Rumman locality of Nabatiyah was set on fire, and the fire was extinguished by civil defence workers.

At 1900 hours on 12 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Siddiqin, the Jabal al-Kabir locality, Ma'lliyah and Izziyah. Three persons were wounded.

At 2230 hours on 12 April the outskirts of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Kafr Tibnit and the environs of the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by helicopter gunships.

Following Israeli threats to shell areas in the south, most of the inhabitants of those areas and of areas in the western Bekaa that had also come under artillery fire took refuge in Sidon and Beirut, in Qammatiyah and Kayfun in Alayh district, in Shiyah in B'abda district, in Dayr al-Qamar, Rumaylah, Jiyah, Jun and Kafr Him in the Shuf district, in Musaylikh in Nabatiyah district, in Jubb Jannin, Qir'awn, Saghbin, Khirbat Qanafar, Ba'lul and Aytanit in the western Bekaa district, and in Awza'i in B'abda district.

The displaced were accommodated in schools and government buildings, and some found shelter in the homes of relatives.

At 0700 hours on 13 April the outskirts of Duwayr, Kufur, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Jibshit and Kafr Rumman came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0800 hours on 13 April two Israeli helicopters flew over the coast at the port of Tyre.

At 0700 hours on 13 April 1996 the towns of Qulaylah, Bazuriyah and Qana and the outskirts of Hannawiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. A number of persons were wounded.

At 1000 hours on 13 April Israeli warplanes attacked Wadi al-Qaysiyah between Majdal Silm and Sawwanah.

At 1015 on 12 April the towns of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm and Khirbat Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1030 hours on 13 April Israeli warplanes attacked Majdal Silm.

At 1030 hours on 13 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm and Shu'aytiyah.

At 1100 hours on 13 April the outskirts of Kanisah, Ramadiyah, Siddiqin, Qana and Hannawiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1110 hours on 13 April Israeli warplanes attacked Marj Tibnin, where UNIFIL forces are stationed, and the area alongside Tibnin government hospital.

At 1400 hours on 13 April Israeli helicopters attacked an ambulance on the Manduri highway. The following Lebanese women and girls were killed: Nova Ahmad al-Aqlah (61), Fadwa Fayiz al-Khalid (19), Hudu' Fadi al-Khalid (13), Janine Abbas Juhha (3), Zaynab Abbas Juhha (11) and Mana Habib Shuwayr (31). A number of other persons were wounded.

At 1500 hours on 13 April Nabatiyah, outlying areas of Kafr Rumman, Habbush, Kafr Tibnit, Zibdin, Haruf, Jibshit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Duwayr, Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Hamra, Kafr Sir, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Shukin and Mayfadun and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1700 hours on 13 April Israeli warplanes overflew the Jubb Jannin area.

At 1845 hours on 13 April a UNIFIL convoy entered Mansuri and evacuated 150 women, children and elderly persons. At 0100 hours on 14 April UNIFIL evacuated 30 more people from the town and took all of them to its Sidon base.

At 2230 on 13 April 1996 the towns of Mansuri, Qulaylah and Hinniyah and the outskirts of Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn, Qana and Siddiqin came under intense Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes.

At 2300 hours on 13 April Israeli aircraft overflew Beirut and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

On 14 April the following attacks took place:

At 0010 hours Israeli warplanes made frequent low-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah area.

At 0030 hours Israeli warplanes attacked an area near the gendarmerie post in Jba' in three waves. Serious damage was done to the gendarmerie building and to a number of houses and vehicles.

At 0100 hours the towns of Haris, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Kafra, Yatar, Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Bi'r al-Salasil, Sultaniyah, Jumayjimah and Safad al-Battikh came under Israeli artillery fire. One person was wounded. Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Tibnin.

At 0330 hours Israeli helicopters attacked Mashgharah al-Tahta and completely destroyed the home of Muhammad Qasim al-Anquni, a 33-year-old Lebanese. The electricity network in the town also sustained major damage.

At 0400 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Nabatiyah - Kafr Rumman triangle while the Israeli artillery bombardment of villages in the Nabatiyah area continued intermittently. A young woman was wounded.

At 0630 hours the towns of Mahrunah, Ramadiyah, Siddiqin, Sa'idiyah, Kanisah and Rishknaniyah came under heavy fire from artillery and helicopters. The outskirts of Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm, Hannawiyah and Qana also came under artillery fire. Some 60 per cent of the inhabitants of Tyre and of the villages in the Tyre area fled towards the coast road and Sidon when threats aimed at them were broadcast by the Israeli enemy's radio service.

At 0800 hours heavy bombardment of villages in the Nabatiyah area was continuing, targeting the Bayad neighbourhood and the Shaqif club in Nabatiyah and the outskirts of Shukin, Mayfadun and Zibdin.

At 0925 hours Israeli warplanes carried out four consecutive attacks on the Jabal al-Kabir locality on the outskirts of Siddiqin and attacked an ambulance belonging to an Islamic charitable association on the Qulaylah road.

At 0930 hours the Jba' police station received a direct hit and was destroyed together with its Land-Rover vehicle (registration number 612061) and a number of civilian vehicles. The personnel of the post removed themselves to Kafr Bayt adjacent to Jba' because there were no safe places in the town. At 2030 hours on the same day they returned and installed themselves in the premises of the charitable society Jam'iyat al-Birr wa-al-Ihsan.

At 1000 and 1008 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Suhmur and its outskirts and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from the Lebanese Army.

At 1010 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the home of Ghassan Mun'im in Suhmur. There were no reports of casualties.

At 1015 hours the Bayad neighbourhood of Nabatiyah was subjected to consecutive attacks by Israeli warplanes. These aircraft also attacked various places in the town.

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Bayadir neighbourhood in Haruf and targeted the Hasan Wahbah building.

At 1145 Israeli warplanes attacked a house under construction near the evangelical school in Nabatiyah. It belongs to Hasan Baytar.

At 1200 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Libbaya woodland, and at 1208 hours they attacked the town itself and areas to the north, destroying the home of Hatam Hamid Isma'il.

At 1230 hours they attacked the towns of Libbaya and Yuhmur, and at 1235 hours they attacked, in two stages, Tallat al-Muqawamah and the town of Ayn al-Tinah. The warplanes continued their overflights of the area and repeatedly attacked towns and villages in the western Bekaa adjacent to the border strip.

At 1230 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the electric power station in Jumhur. Assistant Director Ali Hallawi of the security forces, who happened to be driving along the international road in his privately owned vehicle, was wounded. Two other persons were also wounded. Some high-tension cables and five electricity transformers were seriously damaged and set on fire, causing a break in power. Serious damage was done to an electricity company pick-up truck (registration number 785923 LKh).

At 1300 hours the towns of Duwayr and Sharqiyah came under intense artillery fire and the towns of Jibshit, Haruf, Yuhmur, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah were attacked by Israeli aircraft.

At 1440 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitudes and broke the sound barrier.

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Kafr Fila, Ayn Qana and Humin al-Fawqa. There was an intense artillery bombardment of Nabatiyah, Humin al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, Habbush, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Yuhmur, Arnun, Shukin, Mayfadun, Zibdin, Duwayr, Kufur, Haruf, Jibshit, Sharqiyah, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Marj Haruf and of the Tul area and Al-Shahid al-Shaykh Raghib Harb hospital there.

At 1415 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Maslakh neighbourhood in Nabatiyah and completely destroyed the unoccupied four-storey home of Khalil Shumar. An adjacent house was also seriously damaged. The intense artillery bombardment of the towns and villages in the Nabatiyah area continued, and four persons were wounded in Arabsalim.

At 1515 hours Israeli aircraft attacked the town of Bra'shit, firing a number of air-to-ground missiles.

At 1515 hours Israeli warplanes attacked a hill in the Qantarah locality between the towns of Sir'in al-Fawqa and Nabi Shit in Ba'labakk district.

At 1630 hours the Shawakir locality near the beach in Tyre and the outskirts of Siddiqin, Ramadiyah, Rishknaniyah, Jwayya and Mahrunah came under Israeli artillery fire. Nimrah Ra'uf Zayn, a 75-year-old Lebanese woman and a local resident, was wounded in the outskirts of Jwayya.

On 14 April Israeli naval craft patrolled Lebanese territorial waters off Adlun.

At 1730 hours an unidentified object fell in the fields of Bayt Mshayk - Jurd Rimasah, Ba'labakk district. It is believed to have been an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft.

At 1830 hours Israeli aircraft attacked the home of Jamal Shu'ayb in the town of Sharqiyah.

At 1900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1910 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Ayn Bu Siwar and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

At 1915 hours the town of Bafliyah was attacked by Israeli aircraft. Abd Khalil al-Zayn, a 60-year-old Lebanese, was killed and his home destroyed. The home of Hasan Isa Lubani was also destroyed, and a number of houses were seriously damaged. The bombardment also included the towns of Mazra'at Mushrif and Srifa.

At 1915 hours an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at the Ma'rub highway near the Mazih marble works. At 2300 hours on the same day the artillery bombardment of Qana was stepped up.

On 15 April 1996 the Israeli artillery bombardment of villages and towns in the Nabatiyah area continued intermittently. At 0630 hours on that day the shelling targeted residential neighbourhoods in Nabatiyah, namely Saray, Bayad and Maslakh.

On 15 April the villages and towns of the Bint Jubayl area came under concentrated Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes and helicopters.

At 0630 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Wadi Jilu highway and Bazuriyah. The Suhmurani shop and a civilian vehicle parked by the road in the location targeted were destroyed.

At 0700 hours on 15 April Israeli aircraft overflew the Tyre area. The town of Ramadiyah and the outskirts of Kanisah, Shu'aytiyah, Siddiqin, Qana and Aytit came under intermittent artillery fire. The bombardment of these towns was renewed at 0900 hours on the same day, and it extended to the outskirts of Qana, Jibal al-Butm and Ramadiyah.

At 0800 hours on 15 April 1996 Israeli forces shelled the towns of Habbush, Kafr Rumman and Dayr al-Zahrani intensively. Other villages in the Nabatiyah area also come under intermittent fire accompanied by overflights by warplanes.

At 0900 hours on 15 April Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. A bakery belonging to Muhammad and Mahmud Zahri was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was extinguished by Nabatiyah civil defence personnel.

At 0950 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked Mansuri. The towns of Sama'iyah, Shu'aytiyah, Kanisah, Ramadiyah, Qulaylah, Hinniyah and Majdal Zun came under heavy artillery fire.

At 1045 hours on 15 April, while His Excellency Mr. Nabih Berri, President of the National Assembly, was making a visit to Tyre, Israeli

warplanes broke the sound barrier at low altitudes. The city was shaken, but there was no damage.

At 1115 hours on 15 April Al-Janub Hospital in Nabatiyah came under heavy bombardment. Serious damage was done to the upper floor, and one person was injured.

At 1145 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Majdal Silm.

At 1200 hours on 15 April the freighter Tatalimar, attempting to enter the port of Sidon to unload its cargo of fertilizer, was prevented from doing so by an Israeli boat and disappeared from sight. Israeli boats continued to patrol offshore. The force consisted of a large naval vessel and two boats with two helicopters for protection patrolling off the Shawakir neighbourhood of Tyre and a large naval vessel and two boats patrolling the coast from Qasimiyah northwards.

At 1200 hours on 15 April Israeli aircraft attacked parts of Tyre, namely the area near the Imam al-Sadr institutions in the Shawakir neighbourhood, the antiquities quarter and the Roman arena.

At 1245 hours on 15 April the towns of Jba', Ayn Qana, Jarju', Arabsalim, Ayn Bu Siwar, Habbush, Kafr Rumman, Nabatiyah, Haruf, Jibshit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under heavy Israeli artillery fire. The towns of Kafr Tibnit, Shukin, Mayfadun, Zibdin, Hamra and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr came under intermittent artillery fire, and there were constant overflights by warplanes. At 1645 hours the bombardment was extended to the towns of Numayriyah and Zifta.

At 1250 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked parts of Tyre, namely the area near the Lebanese Army barracks in the Shawakir neighbourhood, the vegetable market and the area near the Imam clinic and the Wahdah mosque in the Ma'shuq neighbourhood.

At 1300 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Majdal Silm and Khirbat Silm.

At 1330 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Shaqra.

At 1330 hours on 15 April the outskirts of Jwayya, Mahrunah, Aytit and Qana came under intense artillery fire.

At 1700 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the outskirts of Dayr Amis and the Shawakir neighbourhood of Tyre.

At 1700 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked a building in the Marijah neighbourhood of Burj al-Barajinah. The two-storey building collapsed. The ground floor was occupied by a displaced family. Six civilians were slightly injured, most of them children.

At 1700 hours on 15 April the towns of Qana and Jwayya came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1700 hours on 15 April the towns of Suhmur and Yuhmur came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1730 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the electricity station in Bsalim in the Matn district. It was destroyed and serious damage was done to nearby houses.

At 1845 hours on 15 April the town of Ayn al-Tinah came under artillery fire. The shelling extended to the road leading to Tumat, Niha and the Markaba thermal power station. The shelling stopped at 2145 hours.

At 1850 hours on 15 April shots were fired from an Israeli gunboat in the direction of the buoys opposite the Tapline/Zahrani port.

At 1915 hours on 15 April the Qulaylah beach and plain, in the Tyre district, came under artillery fire. At the same time, helicopters attacked the same area in two waves.

At 2030 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Bra'shit.

At 2200 hours on 15 April an Israeli warship together with a gunboat and two rubber boats were seen 4 kilometres off Sarafand. The rubber boats approached to within 100 metres of the shore.

At 2310 hours on 15 April Israeli warplanes attacked the environs of Saghbin. They bombed the home of Munir Matta, setting fire to the house, killing Munir, wounding his two children, Wisam and Raymuna, and setting fire to his car.

At 0250 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Ayn al-Tinah hills and the outskirts of Libbaya and the town itself.

At 0400 hours on 16 April the shelling of villages and towns in the Nabatiyah area continued, concentrating heavily on Jibshit, Abba, Haruf, Hadshit, Zibdin, Shukin, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Mayfadun, Tul, Kufur, Kafr Rumman, Habbush, Nabatiyah, Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Ayn Qana and Humin al-Fawqa, on the outskirts of Numayriyah and Zifta and on the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills. The shelling was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes.

At 0400 hours on 16 April Israeli helicopters attacked Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp. They damaged a house and wounded three persons.

At 0645 hours on 16 April the villages of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Hinniyah, Qulaylah, Sama'iyah and Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn came under Israeli artillery fire. The town of Sama'iyah was subjected to Israeli attacks.

At 0730 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Ayn Bu Siwar.

At 0830 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Jarju', while the shelling of towns in the Nabatiyah area continued.

At 0900 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the villages of Mansuri and Qulaylah.

At 0955 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Khirbat Silm, the Bi'r al-Salasil and Wadi al-Qaysiyah neighbourhoods of Majdal Silm, and Jumayjimah, firing a number of rockets.

Following the bombardment and the Israeli threats and warnings to most of the villages of the south and the western Bekaa, some 9 per cent of the inhabitants left and took refuge in the following areas:

Beirut (Musaytibah, Bastah, Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, Zuqaq al-Balat, Tariq al-Sham, Ashrafiyah, Karantina);

Matn (Hayy al-Zuaytiriyah in Fanar, Sibtiyah, Bushariyah, Judaydah, B'abdat);

Kasrawan (Juniyah, Harat Sakhr);

B'abda (Al-Dahiyah al-Janubiyah, Kafr Shima, Khalawat, Falugha, Khuraybah, Bmaryam);

Alayh (Alayh, Bshamun, Shuwayfat, Qmatiyah, Kayfun, Basatin, Aramun, Kafr Matta);

Shuf (B'aqlin, Niha, Mazbud, Mughayriyah, Kitrmaya, Jiyah, Rumaylah, Barja, Na'imah, Dawhat al-Hiss, Jun, Bsaba, Shhim, Dariya, Anut, Hasrut, Siblin, Wardaniyah, Dalhun, Kafr Nabrakh, Baruk, Wadi al-Zaynah, Za'ruriyah, Bayt al-Din);

Zahlah (Ayn Kafr Zabad, Harat al-Fikani, Ali al-Nahri, Riyaq, Sa'd Nayil, Ta'nayil, Ta'lbaya, Jdita, Jalala, Qabb Ilyas, Barr Ilyas);

Jubayl (Lasa, Ayn al-Ghuwaybah, Almat);

Ba'labakk (Brital, Talya, Sir'in al-Fawqa, Timnin al-Fawqa, Bidnayil, Timnin al-Tahta, Qasr Naba, Buday, Labwah, Yunin, Nabi Uthman, Ba'labakk, Khidr, Dayr al-Ahmar);

Western Bekaa (Jubb Jannin, Ba'lul, Lala, Kamid al-Lawz, Qir'awn, Kifrayya, Khirbat Qanafar, Saghbin, Bab Mari', Ayn Zubdah, Aytanit);

Rashayya (Kafr Mishki, Kawkabah, Abu Arab, Jubb Farah, Majdal Balhis, Marj al-Zuhur, Kafr Danis, Khirbat Ruha, Rafid, Mdukha);

The North (Tripoli, Mina').

All but a small number of the displaced were accommodated in schools and public buildings and the remainder took refuge in the homes of relatives.

Fadl Mahmud Atawi and Fatimah Ali Hamzah were killed, Ayidah Iyad was missing and four people were injured as a result of the attack on the town of Jumayjimah on 16 April 1996.

At 1045 hours on 16 April 1996 Israeli warplanes overflew the Ba'labakk area.

At 1115 hours on 16 April Nabatiyah and the town of Haruf came under Israeli artillery fire. Fires were started on pastureland at Haruf, and when civil defence personnel tried to extinguish them they came under fire. No one was injured.

Between 1130 and 1200 hours on 16 April the towns of Batulayh, Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn, Rishknaniyah, Siddiqin, Qana and Dayr Amis came under artillery fire and were subjected to air raids by Israeli warplanes.

At 1140 hours on 16 April the Russian ship FD 1341, loaded with marble and machinery, was leaving the port of Sidon when it was intercepted and escorted out to sea by an Israeli gunboat on station between Sidon and the Zahrani.

At 1215 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Sharqiyah.

Between 1400 and 1440 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Khirbat Silm and Yatar.

At 1430 hours on 16 April two Israeli warships were seen off the coast at the Hammam al-Askari (Bain militaire) in Beirut.

At 1550 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Wadi al-Musaylih al-Nijariyah locality.

At 1600 hours on 16 April Israeli aircraft attacked Timnin al-Tahta. Two people were wounded and serious damage was done.

At 1600 hours on 16 April a shell fell on the balcony of a house belonging to Michel Albab in the Hawsh al-Zara'inah neighbourhood of Zahlah. No one was injured.

At 1630 hours on 16 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Musaylih al-Nijariyah highway. The road was closed to traffic in both directions and the telephone lines were cut.

At 1715 hours on 16 April the vessel Tanalimar was allowed to enter the port of Sidon.

At 2200 hours on 16 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Sharifah neighbourhood in Habbush. Several persons were wounded.

At 2315 hours on 16 April flares were fired from the deck of an Israeli gunboat off Sarafand.

At 2350 hours on 16 April an Israeli rubber boat approached the Sarafand coast off the Khidr neighbourhood and its occupants tried to disembark. Shots were fired in their direction and they withdrew towards the open sea.

At 2355 hours on 16 April the town of Qana came under artillery fire.

At 0015 hours on 17 April three Israeli rubber boats protected by two Israeli helicopters approached the shore in the Khidr locality in Sarafand.

The people of the villages in the south continued to flee towards safe areas. On 16 April a number of families arrived in the Sinn al-Fil, Nab'ah, Hadath, Qarnayil, Duris, Bayt Shan and Mu'aysirah areas.

At 0830 hours on 17 April the outskirts of Rishknaniyah, Dayr Amis, Siddiqin and Qana came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0945 hours on 17 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Hinniyah and Izziyah.

It transpired that the shell that had fallen on the balcony of Michel Albab's house in Zahlah was of the defensive type. The Israeli air raid on Timnin al-Tahta killed Sana' Husayn Nasir, a 41-year-old Lebanese woman, wounded six other persons, completely destroyed one house and caused serious damage to a number of others, including those of Colonel Muhammad Ali Dahir and Sergeant Abbas Husayn al-Hallani, both of the internal security forces. In the shelling of Sharqiyah, Ali Ibrahim Badran (60) was killed.

At 0600 hours on 17 April 1996 three rocket projectiles fell in Marj Uyun, one of them in front of the government-owned Saray building. Maryam Na'im Dawud, a 59-year-old Lebanese woman, was wounded, and serious damage was done to the Saray building and to two unserviceable Rover vehicles belonging to the Khiyam police station.

At 0845 hours on 17 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Kafra and Shaqra and the Wadi al-Qaysiyah locality, firing a number of rockets. The home of Muhammad Ibrahim Ghamlush in Shaqra was destroyed.

At 1100 hours on 17 April 1996 Mansuri, Izziyah, Rishknaniyah, the Asi locality, Siddiqin and the Qulaylah plain came under intense artillery fire. Israeli warplanes also attacked these towns and the Qana - Ra's al-Salib - Aytit highway.

At 1145 hours on 17 April Israeli warplanes attacked the outskirts of Jwayya and Mahrunah, and the outskirts of Sil'a and Shahabiyah came under artillery fire.

At 1200 hours on 17 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Ayn al-Qissis locality in the outskirts of Qana.

At 1250 hours on 17 April Israeli warplanes attacked an ambulance in the town of Abba. Those inside, including Mustafa Mansur, were injured. In the meantime the artillery bombardment of villages in the Nabatiyah area continued.

At 1300 hours on 17 April the towns of Ma'rub, Barish, Srifa and Humayri and the outskirts of Ma'rakah, Tura, Abbasiyah, Burj Rahhal and Dayr Qanun al-Nahr came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1315 hours on 17 April Israeli warships were seen patrolling the open sea off Jall al-Bahr.

At 1340 hours on 17 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Bayad neighbourhood in Nabatiyah. A dairy and the home of Abd Faran were damaged and set on fire. Civil defence personnel endeavoured to extinguish the fires.

At 1400 hours on 17 April the hills south of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under intermittent artillery fire that did not stop until 1900 hours.

At 1500 hours on 17 April Israeli aircraft attacked the town of Qallawiyah. Four persons were wounded.

At 1700 hours on 17 April two unidentified bodies were taken to Tibnin government hospital following an Israeli attack on a civilian vehicle on the Shaqra road.

At 1745 hours on 17 April the shelling centred on the towns of Shukin, Kafr Rumman, Mayfadun, Marj Haruf and Wadi al-Kufur. One person was wounded in Mayfadun.

At 0700 hours on 18 April Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships attacked Nabatiyah and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. Four houses were destroyed in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. At 0730 hours they attacked the town of Kafr Tibnit and destroyed the home of Tawfiq Khalil Faqih and the Jawad Malli building in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. The body of a 12-year-old boy was recovered, and six wounded persons were rescued from the debris of the building. When the Red Cross proceeded to lend assistance it was targeted by the artillery fire.

At 0730 hours on 18 April Israeli warplanes bombarded the towns of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Hinniyah and Qulaylah, and the towns of Kanisah and Ramadiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0735 hours on 18 April the town of Jun, in the Shuf district, came under artillery fire from Israeli positions and Lahad forces in Anan and Sfariyah after the two latter towns had come under artillery fire.

The inhabitants continued to leave for safe areas, and a number of families took refuge in the B'alabakk, Matn, B'abda and Kasrawan districts. They were accommodated in government schools and in a few homes.

It transpired that the shelling of the Malli building in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa killed nine persons, namely: Ali Hasan al-Abid (12), Fawziyah al-

Khawaja (40), Muhammad Hasan al-Abid (14), Huda Hasan al-Abid (9), Nuha Hasan al-Abid (7), Lubna Qasim Ramadan (20), Ahmad Ali Basal (29), Murtada Hasan al-Abid (4) and Nur Hasan al-Abid (3 days).

At 0820 hours on 18 April 1996 Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Siddiqin, and it and the towns of Ramadiyah and Rishknaniyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

Between 0900 and 1000 hours on 18 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, Wadi al-Qaysiyah, Kafra and Yatar.

At 1130 hours on 18 April the outskirts of Jun came under Israeli artillery fire, forcing some of the town's inhabitants and families that had taken refuge there from the south to flee to safer places. The shelling of Jun at 0735 on the same day damaged an abandoned house belonging to Khalil al-Nashif. The shelling stopped at 1400 hours.

Between 1300 and 1320 hours on 18 April Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of Libbaya.

At 1400 hours on 18 April two Israeli warships were seen, one off Manarah and one off Rawshah in Beirut.

At 1400 hours on 18 April the highway from Rumaylah to the Shuf district came under artillery fire from Israeli warships out to sea. The shelling continued intermittently until 1645 hours.

At 1400 hours on 18 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Shaqra.

At 1400 hours on 18 April the town of Qana came under heavy artillery fire. A UNIFIL base was hit and set on fire and there were a number of casualties among UNIFIL personnel and civilians. As a preliminary estimate, it seemed that there were 74 dead and about 120 wounded.

At 1500 hours on 18 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Khirbat Silm and Majdal Silm.

At 1745 hours on 18 April four Israeli warships were seen out to sea off Ramlat al-Bayda in Beirut.

On 18 April the departure of inhabitants of the southern region for other areas continued and a number of families reached the Shuf, Dahiyah, Matn, B'abda and Ba'labakk areas.

At 0430 hours on 19 April the towns of Jibshit, Adshit, Mayfadun, the Bayad and Ksar Za'tar neighbourhoods of Nabatiyah, Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, Habbush, Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and the Milta and Jabal Safi hills came under artillery fire.

At 0700 hours on 19 April Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Hinniyah, Qulaylah and Sama'iyah came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli helicopter gunships also carried out attacks on these towns.

In the shelling of Tallat Mayfadun, the Tumat - Niha road and the outskirts of Ayn al-Tinah five persons were killed, namely Sami Salman Milham (21), Ali Hasan Madi (21) and Ali Muhammad Salman Qasim.

Their bodies remained in the outskirts of Ayn al-Tinah and it was impossible to remove them because of the hazardous situation.

At 1030 hours on 19 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Ma'rub and Barish.

At 1100 hours on 19 April Israeli forces shelled the environs of Rashidiyah refugee camp. Mahmud Jabir al-Khalil (50) was killed and two persons were wounded.

At 1100 hours on 19 April Israeli warships shelled the coast road in the Rumaylah - Awwali area. The road was closed to traffic in both directions. At 1530 hours the shelling stopped. The road was open again from 1630 to 1730 hours, when the shelling resumed.

At 1215 hours on 19 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Jarju' and Arabsalim.

At 1240 hours on 19 April an Israeli warship was seen off the Hammam al-Askari (Bain militaire) in Beirut.

At 1430 hours on 19 April Israeli aircraft attacked an area near the Safi al-Din station in the Hawsh neighbourhood of Tyre.

Between 1600 and 1630 hours on 19 April Israeli forces shelled outlying areas of Libbaya.

At 1630 hours on 19 April Israeli aircraft made mock attacks on Nabatiyah, breaking the sound barrier.

At 1645 hours on 19 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin and Siddiqin.

At 1810 hours on 19 April the town of Jwayya came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1930 hours on 19 April the environs of Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire. The bombardment stopped at 2030 hours.

At 1930 hours on 19 April the towns of Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin, Siddiqin, Shu'aytiyah, Kanisah, Ramadiyah and Rishknaniyah came under heavy artillery fire.

At 0700 hours on 20 April the towns of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Izziyah and Hinniyah came under [Israeli artillery fire].

Because of the continuing shelling of southern villages, the departure of inhabitants for the Jubayl, Shuf, Ba'labakk, Matn, Hirmil, B'abda and Kasrawan areas continued.

At 0930 hours on 20 April 1996 Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Majdal Silm and Shaqra. At 1010 hours they attacked Jumayjimah and fired a number of rockets.

At 1015 hours on 20 April the intermittent artillery bombardment of the Rumaylah - Awwali River area by Israeli warships resumed. It caused a Mercedes vehicle driven by Sergeant Mufid Shams al-Din of the security forces to collide with an electricity pole at Jisr al-Awwali. The sergeant broke his right leg and was taken to Hammud hospital in Sidon. The shelling also damaged the home of Nazih Kulayb before stopping at 1030 hours. The road was reopened in stages from 1115 hours onwards, and the shelling resumed at 1150 hours. As of 1930 hours on 20 April vehicles were allowed to pass in groups.

At 1030 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Qallawiyah, Sawwanah, Jumayjimah, Shaqra and Majdal Silm.

At 1100 hours on 20 April an Israeli warship was seen off Ayn al-Muraysa in Beirut.

At 1245 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Hinniyah and Qulaylah and the outskirts of Hawsh in the Tyre district.

At 1300 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Adshit and Jibshit and the approaches to Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

At 1335 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes in four waves attacked the Wadi al-Burjayn locality opposite the Hamra' locality and above the road leading to the Tayr Falsayh bridge in the outskirts of Zrariyah. They fired eight rockets. The highway between Zrariyah and Tayr Falsay was closed when six rockets fell in the middle of the road. It was reopened to traffic in both directions after a force from the Lebanese Army had completed work on filling the crater.

At 1400 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Wadi al-Qaysiyah area and fired a number of rockets. The town of Majdal Silm came under intense artillery fire, receiving five shells per minute.

At 1600 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Ramadiyah, Hinniyah, Qulaylah, Mansuri, Sama'iyah, Ma'lliyah and Zibqin and the outskirts of Dayr Amis and Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn.

At 1600 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked Barish. The headmaster of the town's government school, Munir Sami Sa'd (48), from Ma'rakah, was killed.

At 1745 hours on 20 April 1996 the Lebanese Army checkpoint at the Mansuri intersection came under Israeli artillery fire. Sergeant Ali Diyab was killed, and Sergeant Abd Allah Muhsin, Sergeant Munir al-Hayik and Private

Husayn Ramu were wounded. Sergeants Abd Allah Muhsin and Munir al-Hayik were taken to the Najm hospital in Tyre. Because of his serious condition, Private Ramu was taken to a hospital in Sidon where he died a short time later.

At 2300 hours on 20 April Israeli warplanes attacked the towns of Duwayr, Abba, Haruf, Jibshit and Qusaybah. Israeli helicopter gunships also attacked two civilian vehicles, one on the Adshit - Qusaybah road and the other between Adshit and Jibshit. Five persons from Zrariyah and Qusaybah were injured.

On 21 April intermittent artillery bombardment of the international road in the Rumaylah - Awwali locality continued. At about 0700 hours Sergeant Samih Lawbani of the security forces was wounded in the left leg while driving along the road. He was taken to Hammud hospital in Sidon.

At 0830 hours on 21 April the Nabatiyah area came under intermittent artillery fire from Israeli positions.

At 0850 hours on 21 April the Adlun - Qasimiyah highway came under fire from Israeli warships. The shelling stopped at 1550 hours. Two Israeli warships remained on station off Khayzaran, and traffic continued to move with caution.

At 0900 on 21 April two Israeli warships on station off Adlun shelled the area between Khayzaran and Abu al-Aswad.

At 1100 hours on 21 April the town of Habbush came under Israeli artillery fire. Private Abbas Haydar Jabir of the Lebanese Army was wounded and taken to Al-Najdah al-Sha'biyah hospital in Nabatiyah.

At 1240 hours on 21 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Shaqra and fired a number of rockets. Six persons from Shaqra were wounded.

At 1330 hours on 21 April two Israeli warships were seen off the Riviera beach in Beirut.

At 1545 hours on 21 April the coast road came under artillery fire from Israeli warships on station off Khayzaran.

At 1930 hours on 21 April an Israeli warship was seen off Manarah in Beirut.

At 0100 hours on 22 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Khirbat Silm and Wadi al-Qaysiyah, firing a number of rockets. The town of Sultaniyah also came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0500 hours on 22 April the Maslakh and Bayad neighbourhoods of Nabatiyah and the Marj Uyun highway came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli aircraft also attacked the towns of Jibshit, Abba and Duwayr.

At 0930 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft attacked outlying areas of Khirbat Silm.

At 1030 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Abba, Duwayr, Jibshit and Adshit.

At 1230 hours on 22 April the Jabal al-Kabir neighbourhood in Siddiqin came under heavy artillery fire. The town of Hannawiyah also came under artillery bombardment, and one person was wounded.

At 1400 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft attacked the town of Majdal Silm. The town of Sultaniyah also came under heavy artillery fire.

Between 1500 and 1615 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft twice attacked the Na'imah hills.

At 1500 hours on 22 April the Bayad neighbourhood and the Huraniyah Mosque neighbourhood of Nabatiyah came under intensive artillery fire.

At 1710 hours on 22 April the outskirts of Mahrunah came under artillery fire.

At 1825 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Sarba - Ayb Qana road and the Humin al-Fawqa - Ayn Qana triangle.

At 1830 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Jabal al-Kabir neighbourhood in Siddiqin three times. They also broke the sound barrier at low altitude over Tyre, breaking the windows of houses and causing the collapse of an old building owned by Ibrahim Haddad in the Catholic quarter. No casualties were reported.

At 1830 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft overflew Sidon at low altitudes and broke the sound barrier. The windows of the government-owned Saray building were broken.

At 1900 hours on 22 April Israeli aircraft attacked Wadi al-Qaysiyah a number of times and attacked and destroyed the water tank in the town of Sultaniyah. The tank had supplied a number of villages in the Bint Jubayl area.

Because of the continuing Israeli attacks on the south and the western Bekaa, the departure of inhabitants for safe areas continued. A number of families fled to the Dahiyah al-Janubiyah, Shuf, Kasrawan, Matn, B'abda, Alayh, Ba'labakk and Hirmil areas.

At 0930 hours on 23 April 1996 the towns of Haruf, Jibshit, Duwayr and Adshit came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by warplanes and helicopters.

At 1100 on 22 April Israeli warplanes attacked the outskirts of Ramadiyah, Kanisah and Shu'aytiyah. The towns of Mansuri and Qulaylah also came under intermittent Israeli artillery fire.

On 23 April the shelling of villages in the Bint Jubayl area continued, accompanied by frequent overflights by warplanes.

As a result of the Israeli shelling of the Na'imah hills on 22 April a woman was wounded.

At 1130 hours on 23 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Siddiqin and Rishknaniyah.

At 1200 hours on 23 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Sama'iyah and Dayr Qanum Ra's al-Ayn.

At 1300 hours on 23 April an Israeli warship was seen off Manarah in Beirut.

At 1300 hours on 23 April the environs of Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery fire that continued until 1345 hours before stopping.

At 1500 hours on 23 April the towns of Sama'iyah, Qulaylah, Hinniyah, Izziyah and Mansuri came under artillery fire and were subjected to intermittent attacks. One person was wounded in Sama'iyah.

At 0700 hours on 24 April 1996 the Bayad neighbourhoods, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the Haruf woodland and Jibshit came under Israeli artillery fire. Outlying areas of Kafr Rumman, Habbush and Kafr Tibnit also came under machine-gun fire.

On 23 April 1996, because of the continued Israeli attacks on the villages and towns of the south and the western Bekaa, a number of families fled to the B'abda, Jubayl, Kasrawan and Ba'labakk areas.

On the evening of 23 April 1996 three bodies were recovered, those of Sami Sulayman Milham, Ali Husayn Madi and Ali Muhammad Salman Qasim. They were taken to the Imam Khomeini hospital in Ba'labakk. The whereabouts of the other two bodies remains unknown.

At 0800 hours on 24 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Sultaniyah and fired a number of rockets.

At 0930 hours on 24 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Jwayya - Wadi Jilu - Wadi Haydar highway, closing the road. The towns of Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butm came under heavy artillery fire.

At 1100 hours on 24 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Dib'al - Jwayya - Ma'rakah triangle, closing the Ma'rakah road. At 1115 hours they attacked and closed the Bafliyah - Dib'al road.

At 1430 hours on 24 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Siddiqin and Qana, and the towns of Sama'iyah and Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1520 hours on 24 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Ramadiyah - Qana highway in Wadi al-Wardani. Three persons were wounded.

At 1605 hours on 24 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Hamra locality in the outskirts of Zrariyah, closing the road between Zrariyah and Brayqi'. At 1900 hours the Lebanese Army set to work to reopen it.

At 1630 hours on 24 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Al-Ayn locality between Brayqi' and Zrariyah, Kafr Dijjal and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, the towns of Jibshit and Adshit and the Zawtar al-Gharbiyah highway. The road between Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Mayfadun was closed. They also attacked the Habbush - Arabsalim bridge and outlying areas of Mayfadun.

At 1645 hours on 24 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Siddiqin, Jibal al-Butm and Rishknaniyah.

At 1830 hours on 24 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Dayr Antar intersection.

The movement of displaced persons from the southern villages abated, while the task of accommodating and assisting them continued.

At 0800 hours on 25 April the town of Siddiqin came under heavy Israeli artillery fire. At 0950 hours Israeli aircraft attacked the Hawsh Basmah area.

At 0800 hours on 25 April 1996 the town of Siddiqin came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0950 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Hawsh Basmah area of Tyre.

At 1015 hours on 25 April the southern part of Mashgharah town and of Jabal Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire. The bombardment stopped at 1130 hours.

At 1030 hours on 25 April 1996 Israeli warplanes attacked the Hannawiyah - Ayn B'al highway near Qabr Hiram (Hiram's Tomb), closing the road.

At 1115 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked and closed the Jwayya - Mahrunah highway. The town of Mahrunah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1230 hours on 25 April the outskirts of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under heavy Israeli artillery fire.

At 1300 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked the outskirts of Sawwanah and Khirbat Silm and fired a number of rockets. The artillery bombardment and the Israeli attacks closed the Sultaniyah highway and all the roads leading to the Nabatiyah area.

At 1315 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Jibshit road.

On 25 April the artillery bombardment of the coast road in the Rumaylah - Jisr al-Awwali locality continued. At 1300 hours on the same day Jamil

Urabi was injured by the shelling while he was crossing the wooden bridge in the Alaman locality. He was taken to the Labib hospital in Sidon.

On 25 April the Nepalese contingent of UNIFIL brought to Tibnin hospital Amin Ali Kawrani (20), Muhammad Ali Salim (24), Husayn Hasan Kawrani (20), Hasan Ali Kawrani (24) and Hasan Haydar al-Qasim 27), Lebanese nationals wounded by the Israeli bombardment of Yatar. They were then taken to Jabal Amil hospital in Tyre.

At 1500 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes twice attacked the Kafr Zabad plain in the Ayn al-Bayda area.

At 1515 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked the town of Aytit.

On 25 April 1996 UNIFIL opened the Jwayya - Wadi Jilu highway that had been closed by Israeli attacks.

At 1910 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked and closed the Kafr Fila - Jba' highway. At 1915 hours on the same day they attacked the Humin al-Fawqa - Ayn Qana highway, which remained passable.

On 25 April Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships strafed the outskirts of Shaqra and Bra'shit with heavy machine-gun fire and overflew the two towns.

At 1930 hours on 25 April the southern part of Mashgharah town and of Jabal Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire. The bombardment stopped at 2300 hours.

At 2125 hours on 25 April 1996 Israeli warplanes attacked the Haruf - Jibshit road and the Jibshit - Adshit road.

At 2250 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked the Haruf - Jibshit highway in two waves.

At 2310 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes launched 10 attacks on the Kafr Dijjal - Shukin - Abba - Jibshit - Adshit roads. Enemy helicopters also strafed the Mayfadun - Zawtar road with machine-gun fire.

At 2350 hours on 25 April Israeli warplanes attacked Wadi al-Qaysiyah and the Khanuq area in two waves.

At 0200 hours on 26 April Israeli warplanes attacked and closed the Jwayya - Wadi Jilu highway. At 0500 hours they attacked the town of Aytit.

On 25 April 1996, because of continuing Israeli attacks, a number of families fled to the B'abda, Ba'labakk and Jubayl areas.

At 0740 hours on 26 April 1996 Israeli aircraft attacked the Wadi al-Qaysiyah locality and the outskirts of Khirbat Silm. Most of the villages of the Bint Jubayl area also came under artillery fire. At 0915 hours the

aircraft resumed their attacks on the Wadi al-Qaysiyah locality and the town of Majdal Silm.

At 0800 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked and closed the Ramadiyah - Kanisah - Shu'aytiyah highway. The towns of Qulaylah, Hinniyah, Dayr Amis, Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butm also came under heavy artillery bombardment.

At 0930 hours on 26 April 1996 the Bayad quarter, Ksar Zu'aytir, the Kufur road, the outskirts of Haruf, and the towns of Jibshit, Adshit, Qusaybah, Kafr Sir, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli aircraft. Serious damage was done to homes, to the traffic department and emergency services department, to the medical centre and to the fire station belonging to the security forces in Nabatiyah. Israeli aircraft also attacked and closed the Ayn Qana - Jba' - Kafr Fila road.

At 1000 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked areas along the Litani River between Jun and Kafr Falus. They then returned and again attacked the same locality three consecutive times before 1100 hours.

At 1015 hours on 26 April Israeli warplanes overflew the Dahr al-Baydar and Ba'labakk areas and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 1100 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the outskirts of Tulin. At 1150 hours they attacked the town of Majdal Silm.

At 1200 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Siddiqin and Dib'al. The Dayr Qanun Ra's al-Ayn intersection and its environs came under artillery fire at 1300 hours.

At 1215 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Dayr Antar, Kafr Dunin, Bi'r al-Salasil and Khirbat Silm. The town of Shaqra also came under artillery fire, and Hasib Muhammad Salman (26), a local inhabitant, was killed.

At 1230 hours on 26 April an Israeli warship was seen off the Riviera beach in Beirut.

At 1250 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Khirbat Silm and Qallawiyah.

At 1330 hours on 26 April the artillery bombardment of the Bayad and Ksar Zu'aytir neighbourhoods of Nabatiyah and of the Haruf pastureland was stepped up.

At 1730 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the Hawr road, setting fire to the home of Hasan Dahir.

At 1900 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the town of Khirbat Silm. Israeli artillery shelled the towns of Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm and Khirbat Silm.

At 1900 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the road from Zifta to Zahrani and the Fanar hospital intersection, closing it to vehicles. At 2005 hours they attacked the same locality as well as the towns of Adshit, Jibshit and Tul, the Kufur - Bayad neighbourhood and the Jabal al-Ahmar road. In the meantime, the artillery bombardment of the town of Zibdin, the Bayad neighbourhood and the Kafur road continued until 2100 hours.

At 1920 hours on 26 April Israeli aircraft attacked the towns of Mansuri, Qulaylah, Hinniyah, Sama'iyah, Ramadiyah, Malikiyah and Shu'aytiyah.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns these actions undertaken by Israel. They developed into a large-scale act of aggression against Lebanon in which wholesale massacres of civilians took place and there was appalling destruction of homes, hospitals and places of business and of the infrastructure of the Lebanese national economy.

Because of this act of aggression by Israel, more than 180 citizens have been killed, more than 400 have been injured and hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

This aggression is part of a series of Israeli attacks that represent flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and are in breach of international law and human rights. Their barbarous features - especially the ambulance massacre, the families wiped out under the rubble of their homes, and the Qana massacre of 112 civilian citizens, including a large number of children and women, who had sought the protection of the United Nations - provide evidence of the aggressive character of the brutal Israeli occupation, of the Israeli Government's policy of malice, antipathy and enmity and of Israel's failure to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, most recently General Assembly resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996 condemning this aggression and considering Israel responsible for compensating Lebanon for all the losses arising therefrom.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Permanent Representative